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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q79038

Takeshi TANAKA

Appln. No.: 10/787,319

Group Art Unit: 3729

Confirmation No.: 4365

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: February 27, 2004

For: METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR ALIGNING THE STRESS-APPLYING PARTS OF POLARIZATION-MAINTAINING OPTICAL FIBER, AND METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR MANUFACTURING A POLARIZATION-MAINTAINING COUPLER

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT **UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

1. European Patent Application Publication No. EP 0707226, published April 17, 1996.
2. United States Patent No. 5,417,733, published May 23, 1995.
3. M. Abebe, et al.: "Reproducible Fabrication Method for Polarization Preserving Single-Mode Fiber Couplers"; Journal of Lightwave Technology, IEEE. New York, US; Vol. 6, No. 7; July 1, 1998; pages 1191-1198.
4. European Patent Application Publication No. EP 0392924, published October 17, 1990.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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5. Japanese Unexamined Patent Application Publication No. H09-005563, published January 10, 1997 (with English abstract).
6. Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application Publication No. 2001-228354, published August 24, 2001, previously submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement dated February 27, 2004.
7. Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application Publication No. 2001-004868, published January 12, 2001 (with English abstract).

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, except those indicated as being previously submitted.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under § 1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding European Search Report, dated December 16, 2004, which cites such documents and indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H. Bernstein', is written over a horizontal line.

Howard L. Bernstein
Registration No. 25,665

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: March 15, 2005

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/787,319
Confirmation Number	4365
Filing Date	February 27, 2004
First Named Inventor	Takeshi TANAKA
Art Unit	3729
Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Attorney Docket Number	Q79038

Sheet 1 of 1

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US 5,417,733	A	05-23-1995	Wesson
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			
		US			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Translation ⁶
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			
		EP	0707226	A1	04-17-1996	Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd.	
		EP	0392924	A2	04-11-1990	Fujikura Ltd.	
		JP	H09-005563	A	01-10-1997	Sumitomo Electric Industries, Ltd.	
		JP	2001-228354	A	08-24-2001	Fujikura Ltd.	
		JP	2001-004868	A	01-12-2001	Fujikura Ltd.	

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.	Translation ⁶
		M. Abebe, et al.: "Reproducible Fabrication Method for Polarization Preserving Single-Mode Fiber Couplers"; Journal of Lightwave Technology, IEEE. New York, US; Vol. 6, No. 7; July 1, 1998; pages 1191-1198.	

Examiner Signature

Date Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or in the comment box of this document. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.